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REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-6, 17-22 AND 24-29 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 17-22 and 24-29 stand rejected as being anticipated by the Abrari et al. patent (United States Patent No. 7,020,869, issued March 28, 2006, hereinafter "Abrari"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24, from which claims 2-6, 18-22 and 25-29 depend, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

Abrari teaches a business rules user interface for development of adaptable enterprise applications. In particular, Abrari teaches a user interface that displays a rule set as an editable list of conditions and an editable list of actions. An editable list of if-values and an editable list of then-values link the conditions and actions. If-values and then-values are explicitly linked to each other. Furthermore, conditions and if-values are explicitly linked to each other, and then-values and actions are explicitly linked to each other in the displayed lists.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that Abrari fails to teach, show or suggest the novel invention of creating at least one individualized language resource (*i.e.*, individualized vocabulary term), where the individualized language resource is mapped onto at least one executable object, as positively claimed in the Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1, 17 and 24, as amended, recite:

1. A method of authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the method comprising:
creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable

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object;

creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

17. A system for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the system comprising:

means for creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;

means for creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource; and

means for transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

24. A computer-readable media for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, which when executed by a processor performs the steps of:

creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;

creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

The Applicants' invention is directed to a method and apparatus for business rules authoring and operation employing a customizable vocabulary. Rules engagement is a well-known and important technique for governance of distributed application systems. Rules are typically codified and rules systems are typically managed by programmers. Unfortunately, non-programmers such as business users are generally unable to participate in the management of distributed application systems due to lack of technical and/or programming expertise. Thus, either a business user must learn a programming language, or a programmer must anticipate the wishes of the

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business user and interpret them into a programming language.

The Applicants' invention addresses these concerns by providing an individualized language that allows a non-programmer to author logic directly carried out by a computer. The individualized language is a combination of permissible statements (e.g., if-then-else or the like) and a customizable vocabulary upon which the statements operate. The customizable vocabulary includes a plurality of individualized vocabulary terms (or language resources) in the parlance of the intended user that are each mapped onto an executable object. A user then creates a rule in the individualized language that references at least one vocabulary term, and this rule is transformed into a computer executable format.

By contrast, Abrari provides only textual substitutions for entities and their attributes and relationships. For example, Abrari presents a vocabulary in the form of a tree of business terms, where non-leaf nodes comprise entities (e.g., "account"), leaf nodes comprise attributes of these entities (e.g., "account number") and branches comprise relationships between entities. Thus, Abrari provides vocabulary terms as elements of a conceptual semantic model. However, nowhere does Abrari teach, show or suggest mapping an executable object onto a vocabulary term, as claimed by the Applicants in independent claims 1, 17 and 24. As such, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 17 and 24 are not anticipated by the teachings of Abrari. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 1, 17 and 24 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Claims 2-6, 18-22 and 25-29 depend from claims 1, 17 and 24 and recite additional limitations therefore. Accordingly, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-6, 18-22 and 25-29 also are not anticipated by the teachings of Abrari. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 2-6, 18-22 and 25-29 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 7-16, 23 AND 30 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7-16, 23 and 30 stand rejected as being obvious over Abrari in view of the

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Serrano-Morales et al. patent (United States Patent No. 6,965,889, issued November 15, 2005, hereinafter "Serrano-Morales"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24, from which claims 7-16, 23 and 30 depend, as discussed above in order to more clearly recite aspects of the present invention.

As discussed above, Abrari does not teach, show or suggest creating at least one individualized language resource (i.e., individualized vocabulary term), where the individualized language resource is mapped onto at least one executable object, as claimed by the Applicants in independent claims 1, 17 and 24. Serrano-Morales does not bridge this gap in the teachings of Abrari. Specifically, Serrano-Morales also does not teach, show or suggest mapping an individualized language resource or vocabulary term to an executable object. As such, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 17 and 24 are not made obvious by the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 1, 17 and 24 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

Claims 7-16, 23 and 30 depend from claims 1, 17 and 24 and recite additional limitations therefore. Accordingly, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-16, 23 and 30 also are not made obvious by the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 7-16, 23 and 30 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

III. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so

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that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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